IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On Page 1, please amend the third paragraph as follows:

In some approaches, the indirect interconnection between the signal cable and ultrasound transducer array is established by a transitional device, e.g. a flexible printed circuit or printed circuit board~~)~~. See e.g. U.S. Patent Nos. 6,100,626. Such transitional devices not only add expense and complexity, but also limit the maneuverability and reliability of the ultrasound probes.

On Page 8, please amend the second paragraph as follows:

More particularly, and as shown in Fig. 1, distal end portions of each of the signal lines **22** may be separately embedded within and continuously extend into and through the support member **40** from a rearward-facing side to the forward-facing side thereof. To accommodate signal lines 22, a plurality of openings may be defined through the support member **40** in corresponding spaced relation to the spacing between, or pitch of, the signal lines **22** of signal cables **20**. The signal lines **22** may each include an outer insulating layer **22a** that has been removed from an embedded distal end portion of an electrically conductive wire **22b**.

On Page 9, please amend the second paragraph as follows:

The ultrasound transducer array **30** may comprise a piezoelectric layer **32** interconnected (e.g. bonded) to support member **40.** In one arrangement, the piezoelectric layer **32** may comprise a ceramic-based material such as PZT (i.e. lead zirconate titanate). Optionally, an electrically conductive signal layer **46** may be interconnected (e.g. bonded) to a forward-facing side of support member **40**. In one arrangement, conductive signal layer **46** may be defined by gold-plating. Further, an electrically conductive signal layer **34** may be optionally disposed (e.g. sputter deposited) on a rearward-facing side of piezoelectric layer **32** and interconnected (e.g. bonded) to a forward facing side of support member **40** or conductive signal layer ~~42~~**46** if provided.

On Page 10, please amend the second paragraph as follows:

As shown, electrically conductive ground layer **36** and piezoelectric layer **32**, as well as the optional layers **38**, **34** and ~~42~~**46** if provided, may each comprise an aligned, common plurality of separated portions that define a one-dimensional array or row, of transducer elements of ultrasound

transducer array **30**. Correspondingly, a shallow-depth of the forward-facing side of support member **40**, may comprise a corresponding, aligned plurality of same-sized, separated portions. The various separated portions noted above may be separately or contemporaneously defined. For example, in one approach, the ultrasound transducer array **30**, forward-facing side of support member **40,** and various electrically conductive layers interconnected thereto may be cut, or diced, contemporaneously. In turn, an electrically non-conductive material **60** (e.g. a room-temperature-vulcanizing (RTV) rubber) may be provided (e.g. via vacuum impregnation) into the cut-out regions to electrically isolate and physically adjoin the separated portions.

On Page 12, please amend the second paragraph as follows:

To isolate the optional electrically conductive signal layers ~~36~~46 and ~~24~~34 from the electrically conductive ground layer **36**, isolation channels **50** that extend across the width of either or both of the support member **40** and piezoelectric layer **32** may be provided. As shown, the isolation channels **50** may be combinatively defined by aligned channels (e.g. cut-out grooves) that extend across the width of both the support member **40** and piezoelectric layer **32,** and that are of a depth that exceeds the thickness of optional conductive signal layers **42** and **34**, respectively.

On Page 13, please amend the second paragraph as follows:

Distal end portions of each of the signal lines **122** may be separately embedded within and, as shown in Fig. 2, may continuously extend into and through the support member **140** from a rearward facing side to the forward-facing side thereof. The signal lines **122** may each include an outer insulating layer **122a** that has been removed from an embedded distal end portion of an electrically conductive wire **122b.**

On Page 16, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

Further, in this regard, the electrically conductive-backed sheet **136** may be electrically connected to a ground conductor comprising a separate cable **170** (shown in phantom lines). For isolation purposes, isolation channels ~~150~~ may be provided (not shown). The cable member **170** may be of flexible construction and interconnected (e.g. bonded or soldered) to rear-facing side of

support member **140**. In turn, the cable ground member **170** runs the entire length of signal cables **120**.

On Page 16, please amend the third paragraph as follows:

Figs. 3 and 4 illustrate an additional embodiment of an ultrasound probe **200** that is quite similar to the ultrasound probe **10** illustrated in Fig. 1. The ultrasound probe **200** comprises a plurality of signal cables ~~120~~220 whose distal ends are connected in an offset, stacked fashion to a one-dimensional ultrasound transducer array **230** to define a "side-looking" arrangement. In this regard, the ultrasound probe **200** includes a support member **240** for supportably receiving the distal ends of a plurality of signal lines **222** comprising each of the signal cables **220** and for supporting the ultrasound transducer array **230** on a top side thereof.

On Page 16, please amend the fourth paragraph as follows:

The distal end portions of signal lines **222** may be embedded within and, as shown in Fig. 4, may continuously extend into and through the support member **240**. Again, a plurality of openings may be defined through the support member **240** in corresponding spaced relation to the spacing between, or pitch of, the signal lines **222** of signal cables **220.** The signal lines **222** may each include an outer insulating layer **222a** that has been removed from an embedded distal end portion of an electrically conductive wire **222b.** Again, the support member **240** may be defined by adjoined first and second support members **242** and **244** respectively, and the first support member **242** and/or second support member **244** may be provided with parallel channels (e.g. cut-out) for receiving the distal ends of signal lines **222** therethrough. As shown, portions of signal cables **220** adjacent to the distal end portions thereof may be twisted 90° and bent, or folded, to an orthogonal orientation relative to the distal end portions. In order to maintain such positioning, outer support members **248** may be interconnected to support member **240** and an epoxy-based material **249** may be disposed between the outer support members **248** and in bonded engagement with the signal cables **220**.